



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 6, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

H. B. 6586, "An Act Concerning Expedited Economic Development Permit Application Teams"

CCM supports this bill.

H.B. 6586 would create state-local economic development teams -- including appropriate state agencies, regional and municipal officials -- to work jointly and simultaneously on permit applications for development projects

Local officials want to work in partnership with the state to help spur greater economic growth and sustainable planning in Connecticut.

CCM supports a process by which municipal officials, applicants and state agency staff can meet to work together to expedite permit approvals. Too often, permit approvals are done sequentially -- when many regulatory reviews should be able to go forward at the same time.

H.B. 6586 would ensure that projects overlapping into the jurisdiction of multiple agencies would be handled in the most efficient and effective way possible.

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Implementing this bill and others like H.B. 6586 (municipal ombudsmen) and SB. 1037 (professional engineers to certify economic development projects) would ensure that the appropriate infrastructure and support is in place to ensure the success of economic development efforts as the state moves forward.

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report this bill.

Thank you.

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For more information, please contact Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.